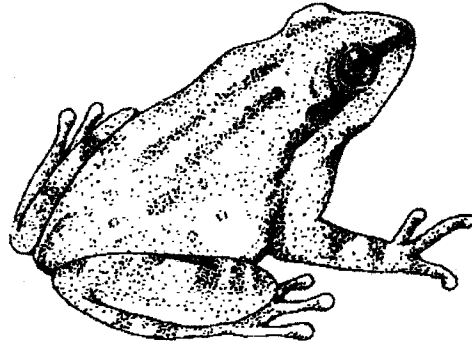


Pacific Chorus Frog

Pseudacris regilla

Family Hylidae



BLM Status: Sensitive (UT)

Global Rank: G5

State Rank: S1 (UT); S4 (MT); S5 (CO, ID, NV, OR, WA); SE2 (AZ)

Distribution: Formerly known as the Pacific treefrog (*Hyla regilla*), the species ranges along the west coast from southern British Columbia to Baja California and east to western Montana, and most of Idaho and Nevada. It appears to be the only native frog on islands off the coast of southern California. Several isolated desert populations in southern probably were introduced. It extends from sea level to about 11,600 ft. (3,540 m.) in elevation.

Description: Adult Pacific chorus frogs are about 1.9 in. (4.7 cm.) in snout-vent length. Key characteristics are the conspicuous dark mask, large toes tipped with large, round toe pads, and limited webbing. The dorsal coloration is highly variable (green, gray, brown, bronze, or reddish), but usually green or shades of brown. Individuals can quickly lighten or darken. There often is a "Y" mark between the eyes. Undersides are usually cream colored to yellowish on hindquarters. The throats of males are dusky and wrinkled, with a round vocal sac. The calls are often



*Current range of the
Pacific chorus frog*

uttered in sequence of about one second each, and are a loud, two part ed *kreck-ek* with rising inflection on the last part.

Reproduction: Breeding occurs January through August. Usually prefers shallow, quiet waters for breeding. Eggs are laid in clusters of up to 80 eggs, and are loosely attached to objects or laid on substrate. Eggs hatch in 3-5 weeks, and tadpoles metamorphose in 2-3 months. Multiple clutches have been documented. Tadpoles reach up to 2.2 in. (55 mm.) prior to metamorphose, and are characterized by having brown color dorsally, white ventrally, eyes are laterally placed and project beyond the margin of the head when viewed from above.

Food: Larvae eat algae, organic debris, and plant tissue. Adults eat a variety of small invertebrates including beetles, flies, spiders, ants, and isopods.

Habits: The Pacific chorus frog is a common and widespread species, usually found in low vegetation near water during the breeding season. It is also found in grasslands, woodlands, forests, farmlands, and around human dwellings. Individuals are inactive during periods of cold temperatures, and frequently are nocturnal during dry periods. Both adults and larvae are preyed upon by bullfrogs, garter snakes, and many birds and mammals, and larvae are also eaten by carnivorous aquatic insects. In some waters, the species has probably been displaced by bullfrogs.

Management Implication: The main threat to the species is probably from the introduced bullfrog. In some cases, irrigation practices may drain waters where eggs have been laid and cause loss of productivity. The importance of increased ultraviolet radiation, parasites, and other factors which may be causing worldwide declines in amphibians are still unknown.

Important References: Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. The Peterson Field Guide Series, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY; Csuti, B., A.J. Kimerling, T.A. O'Neil, M.M. Shaughnessy, E.P. Gaines, and M.M.P. Huso. 1997. Atlas of Oregon wildlife. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR; Groves, C.R., B. Butterfield, A. Lippincott, B. Csuti, and J.M. Scott. 1997. Atlas of Idaho's wildlife. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, ID.